

# IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday 14 August 2022

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## YOTA

Niall (EI6HIB) sends his thanks to all supporters on behalf of the Irish participants in this year's YOTA Activities in Croatia. Many EI have made contact with Niall and our first class contester Megan (EI5LA) during the past week. Until Monday have a listen on the HF bands and give 9A22YOTA a call.

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## Special Call-Sign

Anthony (EI9GMB) has the new special call EI25HEAL, for one year until August 2023. It is in memory of those who are healed from cancer, and not forgetting loved ones who passed away. Anthony was diagnosed in 2017, He had to get strong treatment for 3 years, but he is on the mend now. Anthony posted more info on EI25HEAL on qrz.com

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## HAREC

Declan (EI9FVB), the Chair of the IRTS Exam Board writes on irts.groups.io: The IRTS Examination Board are pleased to announce that the next HAREC examination will be held on Saturday, the 15th of October 2022 at 11:30, at both the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, Dublin and the Clayton Silversprings Hotel, Cork. Registration will begin from 11am. Candidates will be contacted directly regarding venue preference and registration requirements, but if any candidates have not been contacted already or have any further queries regarding the exam, please contact irts.exams /at/ gmail.com for more details. It is hoped that this exam will clear any backlog of previous postponements and facilitate any candidates looking to sit the examination before the end of 2022. The next HAREC examination after this one, will likely be spring 2023. So time to brush up on your study and pencil in the date! Furthermore, any anyone interested in doing the CW test can contact Dave (EI4BZ) at any time to organise the test. More information on the IRTS morse test can be found on the IRTS website. I would also like to mention a special thanks to the IRTS examination team for the work they do voluntarily behind the scenes, to make these examinations possible.

Information about the exam venues can be found on [www.maldronhoteltallaght.com](http://www.maldronhoteltallaght.com) and on [www.claytonhotelsilversprings.com](http://www.claytonhotelsilversprings.com)

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## **Isle of Man**

The Point of Ayre Lighthouse is an active 19th-century lighthouse, sited at the Point of Ayre at the northeastern end of the Isle of Man. Dale (EI7HDB) along with members from the Isle of Man Amateur Radio Society will be activating the lighthouse IM0001 for next Saturday and Sunday for the Lighthouse and Lifeboat weekend. The club call G3TFL will be used for the event and they hope to be active for the full 48 hours. The station will be live from 80M to 70CM operating CW, SSB and digital modes, so please listen out for them. Dale (EI7HDB) arrived on the Isle of Man today to set up the station at the Point of Ayre lighthouse. He will be active on most bands as MD/EI7HDB between now and Friday operating holiday style, so listen out for him especially if you are looking to get the Isle of Man in your log. The group posts up-to-date information on [www.facebook.com/groups/iomars](http://www.facebook.com/groups/iomars) . The Lighthouse and Lifeboat weekend takes place for the 25th time. The event is not a contest. In Britain the Association of Lighthouse Keepers (ALK), conducts International Lighthouse Heritage Weekend on the same weekend as the ILLW. Their objective is to encourage Lighthouse managers, keepers and owners to open their lighthouse or lightstation and related visitors centres to the public with a view to raising the profile of lighthouses, lightvessels and other navigational aids, and preserving the maritime heritage. Normally held on the 3rd full weekend in August, this year it runs from 00.01 UTC next Saturday, to 24.00 UTC next Sunday, Over 50 countries with over 500 Lighthouses are expected to be active during the weekend.

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## **100 years of RTTY**

In August 1922 a typewriter hooked up to a transmitter aboard a military airplane formed the first one-way teletype, capable of sending 100 words per minute to the ground. Receive circuits were soon added, becoming what is now known as RTTY. Radio-hams used World War 2 surplus equipment with modified transceivers using frequency shift keying at speeds of typically 45.45 Baud. During the 1980s, computers quickly replaced the mechanical teletype printers and their physical limitations, ushering in the era of newer high speed modes like PSK31 and FT8. RTTY is still widely used not only by Hams, but also for nautical weather reports and in international commerce and trade.

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## **Contests**

A fitting tribute to the RTTY centenary is the The Scandinavian Amateur Radio Teleprinter Group sponsored SARTG WW RTTY Contest, taking place in three eight hour sessions on Saturday and Sunday next, on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10m. The set of

rules, times and logging requirements can be looked up in the "Contest" section on [www.sartg.com](http://www.sartg.com) .

The aim of the Oceania DX Contest is to promote HF contacts with stations in the Oceania region. In the 77th running of the contest YL awards from last year are continued and there are new awards for youth operators. The contest has two legs, SSB will be used for 24 hours, starting at 06:00 UTC on Saturday the 1st of October, CW will be used for another 24 hours the following Saturday. Each QSO is credited twenty points on 160M, ten points on 80M; five points on 40M, one point on 20M, two points on 15M, and three points on 10M. The multiplier is the number of different valid prefixes worked on each band. Submit your Cabrillo log file using the on-line submission form on the web-site at [www.oceaniadxcontest.com](http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com)

Many leading testers claim the "Worked All Europe DX Contest" to be the most challenging contest of the year, Only intercontinental QSOs between DX and Europe are counted, except in the the RTTY part. Moreover, the unique feature of QTC-traffic adds another operating challenge to the contest. Here the DX stations transfer real telegrams to the European stations. These telegrams contain data of previously logged QSOs. Each of these records counts one additional point for the sender and the receiver, effectively doubling the score. The organiser of the WAE DX Contest is Germany's DARC. The CW leg is still underway this Sunday until midnight UTC, a good opportunity to work some real CW DX. The SSB leg is on the second full weekend in September, and the machines will have the last word during the RTTY leg in November.

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## **Hamchallenge**

The winning entries for the IARU Region 1 "Hamchallenge" have been announced. The first place is shared by Nestor (5B4AHZ) and Christian (HB9FEU). Nestor presented the "Ham Radio Escape Room" project. The radio-based escape room can be played in a very similar way to a virtual escape room, but with amateur radio themes and stories where teams playing the game can also communicate via radio rather than a webcam. Christian presented "A public database of fun projects for innovation", aimed at technology-oriented hobbyists with no or little experience and equipment. The project description may include an indication of the level of complexity and the required time, prerequisite knowledge and required equipment. The third place goes to Luca (IU2FRL) and his team with their "UrgentSat" project, describing a simple carry-on luggage that can be transported to schools or public demonstrations and providing a brief demonstration of the capabilities of the Ham Radio World, how using cheap and second-hand tools can achieve reliable communications over great distances with the QO-100 satellite. Guy (ZS6GUY) wins the "Youth prize" for "A Workbook that will showcase various aspects of the hobby".

The proposed workbook is designed to be a tool for mentors to teach some of the most common amateur radio activities. The IARU Region 1 EC looks forward to preparing the second edition of the Hamchallenge in 2023, in the meantime, IARU Region 1 is in touch with the winners to provide them further assistance to bring their projects into reality.

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## **Belgium Amateur Radio and Computer Rally**

Travellers to Belgium may consider visiting the 27th Radio Amateur Rally in La Louvière, about 50km south of Bruxelles. The flea market is held in the airy 4000 square meter hall of LOUVEXPO on the 17th of September, from 9am to 4pm. It is always one of the most successful ham radio events, attracting thousands of visitors and traders from Belgium and neighbouring countries. To book a table, and for directions to the event, see [www.on6ll.be](http://www.on6ll.be)

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## **PREDICT Version 2.3.0 released**

John Magliacane, KD2BD announced the release of PREDICT Version 2.3.0. PREDICT is a widely-used, deceptively simple-looking satellite tracking and orbital prediction program for Linux and Unix PCs, laptops, Raspberry PIs, and Android. A limited capability version that operates under a 32-bit DOS environment has been released as well. PREDICT features an easy-to-use satellite transponder database editor and support for a mouse or touch screen. New features are a multi-satellite tracking mode, and a text-to-speech mode. PREDICT has been successfully employed by NASA where it provides orbital prediction and tracking data for VLBI radio telescope steering. ESA uses it at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory where it provides tracking and velocity profile data used to steer the 25 meter dish antenna at the Chilbolton Observatory. PREDICT also powers AMSAT North America's on-line satellite prediction service and has served as the basis for a host of other derivative open-source software applications. Additional information and download links are available via the PREDICT website at [www.qsl.net/kd2bd](http://www.qsl.net/kd2bd)

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## **The Propagation Horoscope**

The geomagnetic disturbances caused by the coronal hole CH-1093 are waning to kP 1 or 2 levels. Until the next already active regions rotate into view on Thursday we can expect the solar flux to slowly drop from currently 450 to around 300 kilometers per second towards next weekend, accompanied by a low proton density. This results in a weak D-Layer, helping with short hops on 80 and 60m. 40, 30 and 20m will give

usable DX into Asia before noon, 17m, 15m and above will be moderate to good, but likely only in the east-west directions later in the afternoon. As expected, tropospheric conditions are good to excellent for south to south-east paths, probably one of the last good opportunities this year to reach France, Spain, Portugal and beyond on 8m and above. The Perseids are peaking this weekend, currently with a good count of 100 or more usable trails per hour.

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to [newsteam /at/ irts.ie](mailto:newsteam@irts.ie) for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is Friday noon.

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